

THE UNORGANIZED WORKER AT THE MERCY OF HIS EMPLOYER

Enemies of organized labor base their dislike on the charge that labor organized abuses its power.

That may be true, occasionally, and whenever it is true, is a mistake on the part of organized labor for which it must pay a high price at some future time.

It must be born in mind, however, that in this world the fellow who never made a mistake is always the fellow who never did anything or even had the nerve to try.

If mistakes lead to learning what to do and what not to do, then even mistakes are profitable.

An employer who is so thoroughly selfish that he can't see anyone but himself, is a human mistake that must be corrected by some method.

Labor organized because the workers when appealing for justice and fair play as individuals were treated with scant courtesy.

Few are the branches of human industry but what have felt the invigorating influence of the grades union movement. Among these few is the banking industry.

Rudolph W. Kallas, teller of Continental and Commercial Bank of Chicago, with a wife and two children, started in as a messenger and in 10 years' service never got beyond \$15 per week; and then was given a small raise.

Recently he was arrested charged with taking \$500 of the bank's money. Here is the ex-

planation of his crime;

"To tell the truth, I don't even know that I ever did get the \$500 that I am charged with having taken. I was responsible for signatures affixed on 20,000 checks that came through my department daily. It was an exacting position.

"Suddenly I thought it would be fine to pay my grocery, meat and rent bills with checks. That was a year ago. I deposited \$50 in the bank each pay day and then drew checks against it. I never kept track of the checks. They say I overdrew \$500. It does not seem possible that it can be true, but the baby was born just about then. It's expensive to have babies—that's the only explanation I can make."

This is not an isolated case by any means. Practically all the banks pay poor wages to the clerical force.

Banks make fortunes for their stockholders and pay big salaries to their officials, all on the people's money. But the men who do the detail work are not as well paid as many laborers.

Kallas advances reasons why bank employes should organize. He says:

"But my plight is no worse than thousands of other bank clerks, working for starvation wages. A bank clerk must make a neat appearance. This costs money. He must live in a good neighborhood or he does not come up to the standard exacted